

For immediate release:
January 30, 2007

Megan Ingmire, Communications Director
785.296.8146

Steering committee to seek improved health for all Kansans

Kansas Health Policy Authority Board forming Health for All Kansans Steering Committee

Following its annual two-day Board Retreat, the Kansas Health Policy Authority Board has begun the process of developing policies to ensure health for all Kansans by forming the Health for All Kansans Steering Committee.

“The Board was asked by Governor Sebelius to form a task force that will address ways to provide health for all Kansans. Since the Board’s vision is to provide health access for all, we have chosen to embrace the Governor’s request and form the Health for All Kansans Steering Committee. We believe all Kansans should have access to patient-centered health,” said Connie Hubbell, Chairperson of the Kansas Health Policy Authority Board.

“The Board also visited with many legislators during its retreat, gathering ideas and opinions from our elected officials. There was consensus that they would want to partner with us on a task force,” said Hubbell. “Based on the Governor’s request and legislators’ desire to work with us, this steering committee was formed. We believe collaboration is key to this process and look forward to the results and recommendations of this group.”

The committee will lead this collaborative process for possible legislation this year aimed at promoting health and affordable health care. They will seek specific ways to move toward the larger picture of health access for all.

“A health reform plan for Kansas will need to include all of the stakeholders at the table. This steering committee will begin this collaborative effort and work for a plan that balances the private sector and public sector interests,” said Dr. Marcia Nielsen, Executive Director of the Kansas Health Policy Authority.

The Board is comprised of twelve members. Of those twelve members, four are from the Legislature, four members from the Kansas Health Policy Authority Board, two ex-officio members from the Board, and one invited person from the public, Andy Tompkins.

Tompkins, Topeka, former Kansas Commissioner of Education, is now an associate professor in the department of teaching and leadership at the University of Kansas. He has served on the Kansas Health Foundation for four years.

Members of the Steering Committee include:

- Senator Jim Barnett
- Senator Laura Kelly
- Representative Jeff Colyer
- Representative Valdenia Winn
- Andy Tompkins, Topeka
- Joe Tilghman, Overland Park, retired from Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services
- Susan Page, Pratt, CEO of Pratt Regional Medical Center
- Ned Holland, Overland Park, senior vice president for human resources at EMBARQ Corporation
- Dr. Vernon Mills, Leavenworth, pediatrician
- Sandy Praeger, Kansas Insurance Commissioner
- Secretary Rod Bremby, Kansas Department of Health and Environment
- Marci Nielsen, Executive Director, Kansas Health Policy Authority

The steering committee will be scheduling its first meeting within the next two weeks.

###

Agency Website: www.khpa.ks.gov

Address: Rm. 900-N, Landon Building, 900 SW Jackson Street, Topeka, KS 66612-1220

Medicaid and HealthWave:
Phone: 785-296-3981
Fax: 785-296-4813

State Employee Health
Benefits and Plan Purchasing:
Phone: 785-296-6280
Fax: 785-368-7180

State Self Insurance Fund:
Phone: 785-296-2364
Fax: 785-296-6995